

Erik Olds Receives NNSA Silver Medal

Erik Olds, Chief of Staff for the Office of River Protection, has received the NNSA Silver Medal. Presented by Tom D'Agostino, former Undersecretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Silver Medal Award is one of the highest awards given by the NNSA, and acknowledges the recipient's excellence in service.

"In recognition for his service to our nation, I want to thank Erik for his important contribution to the Department of Energy," said Tom D'Agostino. "Erik's leadership, expertise and collaborative approach have been highly successful for the Office of River Protection (ORP) and the Department in carrying out its environmental cleanup mission."



*Erik Olds, Chief of Staff
Office of River Protection*

As the ORP Chief of Staff, Erik has cross-cutting responsibilities across multiple organizations and functions, including managing and coordinating issues between field offices and headquarters organizations. Erik was nominated for the award by Environmental Management leadership at Headquarters. For the past year, Erik has focused on coordinating between the field, Headquarter offices, Congressional staff and stakeholders to resolve issues and concerns regarding the River Protection Project Mission, in addition to his Chief of Staff duties. Erik's leadership was central in organizing and implementing the Secretary's review team, as well as the resulting focus teams that are currently working to solve the toughest technical challenges.

"Erik's astute mastery of the issues faced by the Department combined with his excellent teamwork and communication skills has been critically important over the past year as the Department has worked through many complex and challenging issues," said David Huizenga, Senior Policy Advisor for Environmental Management.

Prior to being named Chief of Staff in 2011, Erik was the Director of Communications and Public Affairs. For more than 16 years, he has been leading innovative methods to communicate and collaborate with Congress, stakeholders and the media. Under his leadership, ORP launched one of the first social media sites within the Department, and led development of some of the earliest innovative and collaborative learning videos for public broadcast.

The Office of Environmental Management mission is to complete the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from five decades of nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear energy research. EM is overseen by the National Nuclear Security Administration, within the U.S. Department of Energy.